

Lyle and Vee Taylor
Oral History
December 7, 2009

Interviewed by Elaine Carr
Transcribed by Elaine Carr

Elaine: I am here today in Lyle and Vee Taylor's home at 2271 North 1500 West. Today is December 7, 2009. I am here today to do their Oral History. Vee could you tell us who your parents are and when and where you were born?

Vee: My parents are Albert Cal Rasmussen, he originated from the Naples area, and Golda Snow Rasmussen. She was from the Vernal- Jensen area. I was born 11th of June 1931 in Bennett, Utah. Sister Edith Allred, Jennie Haslem's mother, was the midwife before the doctor got there. She saved my life because the cord was wrapped around my neck. So, that family has always been very special in my life. I feel like I'm alive because of her.

My oldest sister, Jenny Mae Latham is now deceased, Donna B. Rasmussen Wilkerson; Gale C. Rasmussen; he's deceased, he was killed by lightning 31 years ago. I was number four child, Ada Vee Rasmussen Taylor. Number five, Clyde K. Rasmussen; number six, another girl, Vera Rae Rasmussen Cook; number 7, Bonnie Gay Rasmussen Trohne; Sullivan, he's deceased; House is also deceased. She lost two husbands after the divorce from Trohne, then, she passed away three years ago. Then, I have another brother, Lyman A. Rasmussen; another brother, Kenneth R. Rasmussen; another brother, Dean J. Rasmussen, deceased last May; another sister Elda Sue Rasmussen and Sandra Jean Mosley. That made seven girls and five boys.

Elaine: That is a large family.

Vee: There were usually only ten of us home at a time because of the age span. My youngest sister Sandra was born in Salt Lake after my parents moved to Salt Lake in 1949. So, she's kind of like my niece because of the age span. She's twenty years younger than I am. She is four months older than our oldest son, Lamoyne. She was born even after some of the Grandchildren were born, not my children, but my older sibling's children.

Elaine: You were born in Bennett, where did you live in Bennett and explain where Bennett is?

Vee: There's Roosevelt, and then if you come East, Ballard, then if you turn North, there's a couple of streets you can take north about two to three miles out of Roosevelt.

Elaine: Is that on the Whiterocks Road?

Vee: Whiterocks Road was considered the Indian Bench. That was still Ballard though, but as you got north it became Bennett, about maybe a mile north on the Indian Bench Road. That's where I was born. There was another little town north of there that was called Leeton. They had a store there when we were children. We could walk up through the field about a mile. Then there was Hayden, and then you got up into Whiterocks.

Elaine: Which road do you usually take to get there from Roosevelt?

Vee: It depends if you want to see the old scenery. We used to call what you called the old airport road where you'd turn north right there by the Big O' Tire Shop by the Union High School. There used to be an old airport up there. That goes over to Bennett. That's still Ballard, and we got up into what they called Toddville, because there were three families of Todds that lived up in there. Jess Hullinger's family lived up in there and the Long family and a McClure family. We would go up that Todd dug-way and then you got up on top; that was considered Bennett, up towards Montes Creek Reservoir. Then Bennett went on up the country two to three miles. Then the little town of Leeton, named after Henry Lee, was just a little place. Then there was considered Hayden. If you went back to the west you got into Neola. If you go further to the north you got into the Whiterocks area where the Indian Reservation was. They used to have big beautiful homes up there at one time. If you went on farther up it was called the Farm Creek area. If you wanted to go fishing you just wound your way around those old windy roads and went back into Chipeta and back into the high country fishing.

Elaine: Did you live all your growing up years in Bennett?

Vee: I think I kind of sorta decided that I was born there in Bennett but we lived in five different homes. But the first one that I can remember living in I was about three. It was a log home. We used to have a Chapel. I don't remember the street address, but there was a log home there and the way I remember it there was two rooms with a lean-to on it for a bedroom. By then there was about six of us, or seven. There was eight of us before we moved to Ballard. But we lived in about five different houses. We didn't call them homes then, we called them houses.

I can remember the Chapel. I remember the circus coming up to Bennett. It was so fun to see those big tents up. I remember the elephants, more of the common ones. They had candy and popcorn and weenies and things that you could buy at the concession stands. Then after they left, they were there about a week because it took them awhile to set up. Then I remember what they called the Gypsies, they used to go through towns and locations and beg for food or clothing.

One time I remember my mother, they were coming and she told us kids, called us all in this little log house and told us to stay there but my sister Donna, Gale and I ran out the back door and peeked around the corner of the house to see what they looked like. I could still see us doing that. They were called Gypsies in those days and they had all these garbs and things on.

Then they left. My mother, she just really got after us for doing that. She said, "What if they would have grabbed you by the hair of your head."

That was one of the fun things that we did. We always traveled by wagon. Dad had work horses which pulled the wagons. That was our transportation.

Elaine: Did you ride a horse?

Vee: Not then. We didn't have a horse that we could ride then. I was too small. Dad would set you on the work horses with there harnesses on we were never allowed to ride them.

Elaine: Did you have a farm?

Vee: Just a small one.

Elaine: What were your responsibilities as a child, did you have to help work on the farm?

Vee: While we lived in Bennett, I think I was too little to do much of anything. I'm sure we had little responsibilities to do. We liked to tend the younger babies. It seem like we had a baby about every year.

Then we moved to Ballard and we did have a lot more responsibilities then. I can remember that we each had a turn sweeping the front room. One had a turn helping mother in the kitchen cooking. We had our turns of one to wash and one to dry the dishes. My sister Donna's worst habit was, she always had to go outside and use the toilet. She'd take a book with her. She would stay long enough that when it was my turn to dry and she'd wash, I would get tired of waiting for her and I would wash the dishes and have them all washed by the time she got back. This went on for years until she left home. It didn't matter, she'd grab a book, she had to go to the toilet. That's our big story when we get together now, we laugh about it.

Elaine: Where was your home in Ballard?

Vee: It was about a mile and a half north of Highway 40. At that time I believe this was only the second road that took you from Highway 40 north. This was about a mile east of the Ballard School and Chapel. That's when we moved the Anderson place. I remember my brother Lyman was born there and I just loved to tend him.

To wash the diapers we had a stream of water really close by. We'd take those diapers down to the ditch. We had to rinse the dirty out of them. That was my job, I thought, all the time, but I'm sure it wasn't. But, it seemed like that.

Elaine: How old were you?

Vee: I couldn't have been more than six or seven years old. We always had to gather the chips. That was another job I had. One time I thought I could chop the chips better. So I got the axe and started chopping the chips but instead I cut my ankle. I still have a big scar there. Oh it was bad. My mother said, "How did this happen?" I said, "I think I fell." Finally she got it out of me that I had used the axe and I was too young. That was a no no. You never touch the axe. But, I was a long time healing up.

Elaine: Did you go to the doctor?

Vee: No, we didn't go to doctors in those days. Mother just took care of it, tried to clean it up. I had to stay off from it; I couldn't hardly walk. I learned a lesson.

We had a garden. We had to help pull the little tiny weeds from around the plants. Then, mother would hoe them. She wouldn't let us hoe them because we would hoe the plants down. This was the way it was all the time. Mother liked to hoe and in all the places we lived it was our job to pull the little weeds from around the plants so she could go down the rows and hoe them really easy. We always had a big tomato patch because my mother loved tomatoes. On the Anderson Place, we called it the Anderson place because Albert Anderson, and his wife's name was Ada, she later had the Mode O' Day Dress Shop in Vernal, and they were wonderful people to my parents. We were on the Anderson Place and in the fall they would gather the tomatoes up with the vines on and then hang them down under the sheds so that the tomatoes could finish ripening. We would have tomatoes well into the fall because we had no refrigeration. Our milk was also kept with rags wrapped around them in the ditch because the running water would help to keep the milk until we use it.

Elaine: Did you buy it at a dairy?

Vee: We had our own milk cows and a few head of beef cattle. When mother got her first cooker, she made us all stay out of the kitchen because she was afraid of the explosion from the cooker. When she was in Castle Dale when my older brother was born, with her parents one exploded down there and sent stuff all over the kitchen. I think they let the pressure get too high. Today I'm not afraid of them and I use them all the time. I started doing that on my own when I was about fifteen or sixteen. But, she would trust we girls to watch the pressure cooker.

Someone was always kind enough to let us go pick apricots as a child to can and we had peaches. There was lots of wild potawatomi plums and mother made that into jam. During the World War II, sugar became rationed and gasoline was rationed.

In Bennett we got our first vehicle. We had one Ford, a used one, had pulled down shades. We just thought that was a blast. Then we moved to Ballard; dad upgraded and got a Ford. I can remember you had to crank it in the front. They had this tool you put on it they called the crank in Ford to start it. We used that for quite a few years. And you know how it goes with

cars, they update every so often and get better and bigger ones. We were always sandwiched in two deep in the back and as many as you could crowd in the front to haul us all when we'd go to church. We never all went to town at the same time. If it was your turn to get a new pair of shoes then maybe mother would take you to get the new shoes or else she would draw your foot on a piece of cardboard. That piece of cardboard would be cut out and they would take it to town and find a pair of shoes that would fit inside. That's the way we'd get our measurements.

Elaine: Did you shop in Roosevelt?

Vee: We shopped in Roosevelt.

Elaine: Do you remember the stores and some of the places in Roosevelt?

Vee: There was the big Ashton's Store there. There was one movie theater and it is still there; it's been remodeled. It's the one kind of up in the middle of town across from Wells Fargo is now. There was a Marion's Variety Store on the corner. They had penny candy and I remember we went to a movie when we lived in Ballard. I think the show tickets were like ten cents, no more than twenty to get in. They were the black and white ones with no sound. I think we went to some of the Tarzan movies. Sometimes we'd get afraid so we'd leave and mother and dad would always make sure we each had one or two pennies that we could go buy penny candy with. We were more interested in spending that for penny candy than we was watching movies. Those were the main stores that I remember as a child.

There was the old mill that was owned by the Petersons. It was just one block east of the main part of town like the Zion's Bank is. That's the corner you'd turn on and go back east a block. I think the old original building is sorta still there and then Buchanans bought it and ran it for years and years and just now closed. We used to take our own grain there to be rolled for flour. Mother always made pancakes from scratch. We had what we called a water reservoir on the back of our stove sorta on one side and heated with coal and wood. Mother would clean off part of that stove really clean and use that for a pancake grill. It made really good pancakes on there. She could cook more by doing that rather frying pans. We didn't have any grills. Of course we didn't have electricity. It was still coal oil lamps. She was always afraid of fire, very afraid of fire. She always worried about being gone and not getting home before dark because we'd have to light the lamps and she was afraid we might tip them over and cause a fire.

Our living room always had a cot and we'd make that out and two or three of us would sleep three in a bed. We slept three in a bed for years, three in one bed and two in another in the same bedroom and some in the living room on cots.

I remember one time one of the babies that was born, they made a bed in the dresser drawer. While we were still at Anderson's I remember we raised our own popcorn then we would husk it and hang it up to dry. It was about Christmas time when it would be dry enough that we could pop it. We would take two ears of corn and put them together and rub them really

hard to take the corn off the cobs. Then my dad would make our popcorn popper and it was made out of wire. There was some kind of mesh wire which I think was screen wire of some kind. We'd pop the popcorn with that popcorn popper; it had a handle on it. It was probably twelve inches by twelve inches and about the same deep. We'd give the corn enough room to pop. We would take turns doing it over the coal stove. We had to make sure we didn't let it burn so we really had to shake hard for a long time to get that corn to pop. We didn't have butter on it. It was salt and sometimes mother would make cocoa, sugar, and cream from the cow, and make the fudge and pour over the popcorn. Oh we always just loved that. We still make it today. It's a family thing. Lyle had never tasted it until we were married and I made it and he said, "Oh, we just had caramel popcorn, we never did have chocolate popcorn." But that was one of the special treats we had at Christmas time.

Of course mother always made fudge and divinity and penuche. That was the three kinds of homemade candy that she made.

Elaine: Did you decorate a Christmas tree?

Vee: I don't remember one in Bennett but I'm sure that we had one because I remember one year I received a rubber doll. That's the only doll I can remember getting until I was probably seven or eight. I'm sure I did. Usually for Christmas we would get three items. You had a doll, and either you got a game or a book to read, and then one piece of clothing that you needed. That was all we would get. Then our stockings were peanuts. My dad worked in the timber a lot and I remember Ballard, I don't remember about the Bennett Christmas' but Ballard he would bring down a load of mine props that would usually go out to the Castle Dale area for the mines when they would dig for coal. He would bring those off the mountain a day or two before Christmas and he always had five or six Christmas trees. We told him we wanted the best one but we never got to decorate it until the day before Christmas. We did have fun putting icicles on and balls and then we'd make crape paper chains to go on the tree. There was a Walquist family that lived across the road and he was blind and the three of four years we lived there my dad made sure that they always had a Christmas tree. There was a McDermet family that lived about a half mile from us. He made sure they had a tree and then he would take what ever was left into town and never sale them but just give them to someone. I loved to sleep in the living room to watch the stove, usually had a front on them that reflected fire burning and it would make the icicles flicker. I always thought that was fun to watch.

Elaine: Were they made out of foil then?

Vee: They were kind of like they are today, little strips and you'd have to take them apart. You could hang them quite evenly around on the trees. I thought we hung them pretty. It's kind of a learning experience that we used when we were married. They had to be placed just right.

We always had a sled and we got skates. I think I was in the third grade because we were still living there. I shared them with my sister Donna, the one liked to read, liked to go to the toilet while I was doing her dishes. I was always glad that she didn't like to skate because then I could have the skates more because we had to share. Then my oldest sister Jenny shared with Gale. These were clamp on skates. We did have snow shoes that we could clamp them onto. It was always fun to go ice skating. My dad used to be really good to take us places where we could ice skate on ponds. When we were older he would ice skate with us. He'd build a fire at night, flood the fields and go ice skating with us and this was always lots of fun. But when he would come off the mountain he had these big bob sleighs and they would be loaded, but he would make sure some time during the Christmas holidays that we got to go for a ride on the bob sleighs with a team. But he was very cautious with the team because he was afraid you could easy have a runaway with them which often happened.

We got other things for Christmas but usually you got three things and you'd be grateful for that. Oranges were special at Christmas time only because they were expensive. We usually had pork, pigs, chickens, cows and we would gather eggs and could sell those for a little bit of income.

I remember I had the mumps when I was in the first grade and I went to school and the teacher sent me back home because she said I hadn't had them long enough and I wasn't swollen either but she made the school bus driver take me back home.

Elaine: Tell me where the school was located?

Vee: The building is still there in Balard. It is now used for cattle, it's a sales barn area. There are corrals there. That was the Ballard School. There was a door on the north and a door on the south with four rooms. It seems to me like there was an office. They did have one little tiny office between the first and the second grades on the north of the school, the school ran north and south, and then the third and fourth grade was the one on the south. Across the hall was fifth and sixth, then there was a little tiny office space on the east side of the building and over in the other corner I think was the seventh and eighth grades. Then there was a hall down the middle. And the way I remember it, sometimes they would change those class rooms around and rotate over the years that I went there from first to eighth grade. There was this little tiny office between the two big class rooms on each side of it which was later used for our first little lunch room which we had soup for three cents. We didn't have to take our sacks anymore.

We had school lunches. They made a room underneath the school and dug out a room down there. We could go outside. I'm quite sure the stairway was on the west side of the Ballard School. We would go down in there to have our soup and things to eat for our school lunches. By the then I'm sure the prices were like five cents up to eight cents and then to ten cents. That was the first real hot lunch food.

Elaine: How many children did it average per class?

Vee: There were two grades together and around twenty to thirty. I don't remember my first grade teacher but I remember the Mrs. Rice that taught. Then there was a single lady, old maid they called her, May Atkin. She was the principal there for several years. I grew older and I don't remember how old but we had a Mrs. Collett, Edith Collett came. She taught us music. She taught us tap dancing. We girls loved that. She also organized a drum and bugle core where they had uniforms and that was a bugle and the drums. I must have been sixth or seventh grade then. There was a school bus driver by the name of Troy Trimble that twirled. He taught all the girls how to twirl both at Ballard and up at Alterra High School. I just thought I was a pretty neat twirler. I got to be one of the twirlers in the marching band when we'd go to Roosevelt for parades. We had the drills. You had to keep your line straight. It was a lot of fun. It was one of the extra.

I would also like to tell you about these outdoor toilets. There was the boys that was separate from the girls. In the winter time the boys used to just pepper us with snowballs.

Elaine: You probably didn't want to go out to the toilet?

Vee: We didn't want to go to the toilet.

Elaine: How far away from the school were they?

Vee: I thought they were a long way, but they couldn't have been too far now that I think about it. They were kind at the north area of the school ground, twenty yards, fifty yards. We had ball diamonds, it seems like about three or four diamonds on the school grounds. Each grade kind of had there own section where they could go play ball. The bigger kids weren't supposed to come play with the little kids. Does that sound normal? There would be a few fights on the playgrounds. Does that sound normal?

The hill, there were still rocks there, but I'm sure some of those rocks have been hauled off because when it would rain or snow we would run and get underneath some of those rocks to keep out of the moisture. We would build igloos up on that little hill-side, big enough the kids would crawl inside of it. They would last sometimes all winter. That was always fun to do. Of course we had our snowball fights. We played fox and geese in the snow. That was the one big game we'd play. You'd make the big round circles and you'd have the geese in the middle and the fox outside. Then you'd have to break away and run and the fox would try to catch you. That was fun in the winter time. We'd stay inside and we could play jacks, we could play checkers, we could play Chinese checkers, it was popular. We played that at home and fish and old maid of course. Those were all children's games that we played.

Elaine: Did you like school?

Vee: Yes, I enjoyed school. I didn't like History. But, I found out later it was an important part of our lives. My favorite subjects were spelling and arithmetic. We called it arithmetic then. I could add real quick and I caught on to subtraction and multiplying and division. I remembered it really quick. I liked to spell. One time I think I was in the third grade and Bonnie Hullinger had broken her right arm. She could not write so the teacher asked if I could come in because they thought I was a good printer. I'm not now, but I guess back then they thought I was a good printer and I would print her spelling words but she had to tell me how to write them. I can remember she said, "I don't know how to spell chocolate, help me." So I kind of cheated a little bit and helped her spell chocolate right.

Then we used to have the contests to see who could give their time's tables the quickest. That was always a fun thing at school. We had spelling bees, divide the classes up and see which side could win. I think they did that from first grade on up.

Another big, big thing at our grade schools was the big community Christmas parties. All of Ballard people would go to the church house in the cultural hall and we would put on these programs. We would practice for at least a month. Each class had their own Christmas program, their little plays. We would put those on for the parents. It was a big, big Christmas celebration. We sang the old time like 'Dashing Through the Snow' and 'Jingle Bells' and 'Jolly Old St. Nickolas' and all the old time songs and a few of the religious songs like 'Silent Night.'

But the one that I remember the most and I was in first grade and we had this little dance. On one side we were baby dolls and on the other side we were negro mammies. We were dressed on one side like a negro mammy and the other side like a baby doll. They were long dresses. That dance was so fun to do. My mother made the dress. I just thought I was a good, good dancer. But those were big Christmas traditions. Santa Claus would come and bring you a sack of candy and nuts. It was hard-tack candy and peanuts. That's the only nuts we ever knew. But, it was always lots of fun. We looked forward to that every year.

The way they heated the schools, they had these big pot bellied stoves and they would sit in one corner of each class room. There would be four of those big stoves. You didn't want to get very close of you would get burned. But, if you came in with wet clothing on we would get to take our stockings and shoes off and hang them over some chairs to dry while we went on with the rest of the school activities.

Sometimes the school buses were late; many times school buses were late.

Elaine: What were school buses like?

Vee: They were big buses like we do today. But, there was no heat in them. The only bus driver I can remember as a child was Carl Hall. He lived in Leeton. He may get stuck but he could always get you to school sometime. Todd Dugway was treacherous. We would sometimes have to walk a good half mile to catch him down below what we called the Smith Dugway. We'd walk to the north, get on his bus, and then go across to Montes Creek and on down Todd Dugway and it was very steep and treacherous. He would have us get off, walk to the bottom of

hill, then he'd bring the bus down. Of course they were all just dirt muddy, muddy roads, big ruts in them. Many times he would have us get off the school bus at night and we'd have to walk to the top. That was the only way he felt safe if he happened to run the bus off the hills. Sometimes the big boys had to help push the bus. I don't remember if chains were put on the tires but he always got us to school and he always got us home. He drove for years and years.

(Lyle comes in and joins in.)

Lyle tell me who drove school bus when I moved to Bennett. Did Mr. Savage?

Lyle: He drove from Lapoint.

Vee: These school bus drivers were important because they got us to school and back again.

Elaine: That was an interesting story about going up that hill.

Vee: My mother just used to really be grateful when we kids would get home at night.

Elaine: It seems like your mother really worried about you children a lot.

Vee: She was the worrier. While we was still living on this Anderson place we'd have the big coal trucks come in from Carbon County to bring us coal. They didn't get home one night; it was after dark. As she came over this one hill, here were these big lights, she just panicked because she thought the house was on fire. But, as they got close then they could tell it was the big coal truck. That was her big fear was her children getting burned up in a fire because this did happen. While we still lived there, there was a man by the name of Jay P. May, and there was a big barn fire and it burned his cattle and things up. I remember dad and the men were all down there trying to fight that fire to let the cattle loose out of the corrals. Many of those pigs, cattle, and horses were burned. That was a sad thing.

Another big event that we always had from the Ballard School was we got to hike to the 'Peak'.

Elaine: Where was the Peak?

Vee: The Peak was in the Ballard area. You could look towards the northeast and the Peak is still there. I would still like to hike it. But it was about a mile and a half from the school. We would cut through the fields and for Easter we'd have our Easter egg rolls down this big peak. We'd see how far we could climb to the top and we got to roll our Easter eggs down that hill. You can see it from Highway 40.

Lyle: It would be about a half mile from Highway 40.

Vee: It's in there where some of the construction sites are now. It's to the north. It used to be called Ross'. Ross' had homes in there. Now it's oil field construction buildings that are there. But that peak is to the north of Highway 40 and it's very visible. That was the big playground for high school and grade school kids to go play. We'd hike it on special occasions or just for the fun of it.

They also had what they called 'thrill bumps'. If you went out in our honda hills now up and down, there were several of these just off the main little road. Once in awhile we could get dad to take us over what we called over these 'thrill bumps'. You'd go up these little high hills and down and up another one and that was always fun.

Then on special occasions, they had big boxes of all-day suckers which was a real treat. We would get those usually like Christmas and Valentine's Day, Easter, and at the end of school. They always gave us as we boarded the busses each an all-day sucker. I thought that was special. We made our own Easter baskets out of shoe boxes. We made our own Valentine boxes out of shoe boxes. If you didn't have a shoe box, you made a sack to hold your Valentines in. You'd usually, sometimes make your own Valentines or maybe you could buy enough for the kids in your class. Every child in your class received a Valentine if you were in that room. That was lots of fun.

Elaine: When you were in grade school do you remember some of your neighbors and your friends?

Vee: Oh yes. Lorraine Hullinger was one of my good friends. They lived up in Todd-Ville. First they lived there in Ballard about a half mile from the school. One thing that happened to Bonnie Hullinger, we all wore long brown stockings to school with garter belts to keep warm. She got to school one day and she'd put her petty coat on but she had not put her dress on. She took her coat off and there she was just in her petty coat and all the kids were laughing at her. That was one of the funny things. So she went crying home. I felt really bad for her. She was older than Lorraine. But Lorraine was one of my good friends. Joyce Hayes was another one of my good friends. Those were some of the homes that mother would let us go into. There was some Prices that we used to go play with, but they were not there very long. We played with our cousins, the Timothy's often. The big thing, they had card games when we still lived on the Anderson place. My Uncle Dale and Uncle Leland would bring there kids up to the folks' and us kids would have our games and so we played with cousins that were our age. Our neighbors in Bennett I can remember Seeleys, mother and dad's friends. There was the Farrell Rasmussen family. They had kids our age.

Elaine: The last name is the same, were they relatives.

Vee: Not relatives. We moved to Ballard, there was the Olie Rasmussen family. They were not relatives. None of the three Rasmussen families were relatives. Then right across the road was the Walquist family. Kind of up on the hill to the east was the McDermid family, then a McMullen family moved in there. They had kids our age that we played with. We always had balls and bats as long as I can remember. That was the big summer thing we always did. We played ball, we played marbles, played what they called purg, that where we had holes dug and you would have to shoot these marbles from hole to hole. We had big steelies, they came from worn out bearings. I liked to play marbles and jump the rope. We always had play equipment like the handle bars and slides. Those were the two big things. Merry-go-rounds, we even had those at our school.

I think I must have been a good ball player because when I was in the fifth and sixth grade I got to be on the seventh and eighth grade girls ball team.

Elaine: Was this just a playground school team or was this a team you got to travel with?

Vee: I think we got to go to Roosevelt to play because they were close by. I did go to Roosevelt one year to grade school, then I was back to Ballard again to finish up. We lived at Cresent, it was about four miles north of Roosevelt over toward the Moon Lake building. Our neighbors up there were the LeBeaus, Calvin LeBeau that helped with the TV station here.

Elaine: Where was that school located in Roosevelt?

Vee: It was down towards the swimming pool. I think there's still a grade school there. That's where we went also to church was the chapel there by the old swimming pool about 2nd West Lagoon Street. I don't remember too much about that grade school, just that I went there. That's where I learned to milk cows when I was eight or nine years old. I thought it would be fun to milk cows and to turn the separator, but I was too little to turn the separator.

Elaine: Did you have a bigger farm there?

Vee: About the same, six or seven head of cows. I milked the cows, always had pigs and chickens. That's where we got our first pony called Smokey. I used to think he was like a race horse because sometimes when we would ride him to Primary we'd tie him behind a Mrs. Matthew's home because she had a place you could tie up a horse. Then we would stay and go to Primary and then go home on this horse. Gale and I, my older brother, used to ride this horse home. Sometimes we couldn't get him stopped and he would lope three or four miles, all the way home. We would have side aches by the time we got home.

Lyle: When we used to ride those horses to school why they would be tied up all day and wouldn't have nothing to eat and they were in a hurry to get home.

Elaine: Lyle we're going to go back and forth with your stories, and Vee has went up through grade school.

So Lyle let's start with who your parents are and when and where you was born?

Lyle: My father's name was Rudolph Teacum. He was named after his granddad Teacum Taylor that was one of the first settlers here. Rudolph was his Grandpa in Germany. His mother came from Germany when she was a young lady. He got named after his two grandpas. That's how they came up with Rudolph Teacum. Dad was born in Vernal on May 30, 1902. That was kind of a long name so everybody called him Chuck.

Vee: When we got married Lyle said, "Okay, his name is Rudolph Teacum; they call him Chuck, but he goes by Business, Charles."

Lyle: A lot of his friends called him Buck Skin Charley because he poached so many deer. Then my mother, her name was Perlous Caroline Neilson. She was born in Chester, Utah on July 13, 1909. She come up here from Chester with her parents kind of like the pioneers traveled when they came into Utah. It took them about a week to travel just from Sanpete County up to here. I remember mom talking about how they camped along the way and that her older sister, Aunt Ardith, would drive a couple of milk cows on her pony. As soon as they'd had breakfast why Aunt Ardith would get started so that when they came to some good grass that she could let the cows stop and eat, so she would usually be ahead or a little behind the wagon. One day she was ahead driving the cows and there come a bad rain storm and the flashflood and the stream between her and the wagon was swollen so she didn't get to get any dinner that day. After the storm was over then it went down and they could get across, but she didn't get any dinner.

Elaine: What year was it that they came to the Uinta Basin?

Lyle: She probably was only five or six years old. It probably was about 1915 when they came here. They settled here on some Indian leases over in Lapoint. That's where they settled and started farming.

Elaine: That's probably where she met your father right?

Vee: Dad was a few years older. My mom, she had an aunt that she thought a lot of up in Rupert, Idaho, Aunt Edna Kump Olsen. Mom went up there and stayed with her for awhile because they had so many kids and she could help her aunt. She went to high school up there.

Elaine: Did your parents settle in Lapoint after they were married?

Lyle: Yeah, they did. I knew all four of my grandparents and lived with them and spent quite a bit of time with them when I was growing up and got quite close to my grandparents. My Grandpa Taylor took up a homestead when they opened up the old Taft. They called Lapoint, old Taft after who was president at that time. He took up a homestead there, 160 acres, and they had to prove up on that. He would usually go off and work. He had four boys; my dad was the oldest boy. They would stay there and farm and build fences so they could prove up on their homestead.

Elaine: So your dad's grandfather was Teacum Taylor, who was your dad's dad?

Lyle: Charlie Taylor. Grandma Taylor's maiden name was Christina Hohne. Their whole family came here from Germany. The first one was Uncle Adolphe. He helped build the Vernal Tabernacle. Once they got established here he worked for the Readers that had sheep. Once they got established then they could sponsor another younger brother or younger sibling. They didn't let you use as many languages that we do in America now. They had to have a sponsor that would guarantee them employment and that they would teach them how to talk English before they would let them come over here. Mrs. McCoy, Cliff McCoys mother, Paul McCoys grandmother.

Elaine: Walt McCoy.

Lyle: Walt McCoy, his wife was my grandmother's sister. She came and got acquainted and married Walt McCoy and then she sponsored my mother. My grandmother came there to McCoys, they lived there by the Maeser Seven Eleven south of there.

Elaine: My grandmother came from Germany and also stayed with the McCoys. We must be related. Her name was Kuni Strecker.

Lyle: Oh yeah, I knew Kuni. She used to come over to Lapoint and visit my grandma.

Elaine: So we're kind of related right?

Lyle: Oh yeah, we're cousins. So, grandma came there and there and kind of helped house keep. They paid her for that. My Grandpa Charlie, he was Walt McCoys sheep foreman at that time. You probably heard how Walt came here. He was going to California and he stopped here and got a job for the Readers. They took him up in the Jackson Draw to herd sheep. I think the first day there he killed a bear and an elk and a deer. He said that was good enough for him and so he took a homestead up in the Jackson Draw. Then he got this property in Maeser and settled here, raised his family here and buried here. So my family was real close to the McCoy family. One

time my Grandma Tiny got appendicitis and they didn't have very good doctors then so she came over and stayed with McCoys. She was real sick and they had to operate on her. So four little boys stayed over there and bached themselves. They couldn't buy bread then and all they had was a cow and a few chickens. They lived on eggs and milk for a couple of month until grandma could come back over and make them bread and stuff. He said that was worse than the depression that came a few years later in the 1930's. They'd get on a horse bareback on Sunday and ride over to McCoys and Aunt Anna would fix them a good dinner and they'd really enjoy that.

Elaine: Where did your parents live in Lapoint.

Lyle: Just before you get to Lapoint (coming from Vernal) there's a road that turns and goes South out to the Huber Flat. They lived right on that road just a little ways southeast of the town.

Vee: About a mile.

Lyle: They lived in a cabin and in a tent first clear over on the southwest corner of their homestead. Then after they got proved up on why grandpa built a nice brick house there just out of Lapoint. It was probably one of the nicest homes at one time there.

Vee: Did your dad and them build that home that Laris and June Woolley lived in when you lived on the Huber Flats?

Lyle: No, they bought that from Clair Hacking. It was where Laris and June Woolley lived and I think Glade Woolley lives there now. They called it Huber Flat. It was called the Huber Flat because there were three of the Huber brothers, Frank, Roy and Dutch. They all took up homesteads up there and farmed. They all had pretty good sized families.

Elaine: Was it a big flat area or something?

Lyle: Yeah, where they could farm and irrigate out of the Whiterocks Canal.

Elaine: When were you born?

Lyle: I was born in February 1, 1929.

Elaine: Did you have older brother and sisters and what were there names?

Lyle: I was the only boy in the family. I had three younger sisters.

Elaine: What are your sisters' names?

Lyle: The oldest one was Iris Veon, then Myrna. She married Duane Richens. Then, Irene married Clyde Collins.

Elaine: Your older sister, did she die?

Vee: She was just younger than Lyle.

Lyle: My dad got a chance to buy this ranch that we have over on Deep Creek, so he traded that place that he had, he had a mortgage on it and he traded the mortgage and he got one horse from his brother. That made him up a team and we moved up to Deep Creek with the team and a iron-tired wagon with all our stuff on the wagon. We've had that place up Deep Creek ever since.

Elaine: How old were you when you moved there?

Lyle: I think six or seven. I was probably in the second grade when we moved up there.

Elaine: Did you have a big ranch up there?

Lyle: It was 320 acres. That was quite a bit to take care of then.

Elaine: What were your responsibilities?

Lyle: Mainly to kind of take care of the cows. We milked probably ten or twelve dairy cows. I'd herd them so they didn't get in the hay field and the grain fields and then bring them in at nights. Then we'd milk them. Then we had a little pasture we'd put them in over night. Then we'd milk them again in the morning and then turn them back out. Then I'd have to herd them during the day time.

My grandpas and uncles on both sides had range herds of sheep that they lambled on Little Mountain and north of Deep Creek and up in that area. As soon as I got a little bit bigger I had a pony and I'd go to their camps. As soon as I'd get home from school my mom would have my horse saddled and I'd get on it and go gather bum-lambs. We'd raise those bum-lambs with the milk from our dairy cows. We would separate the milk and sell the cream; put it in a spring or a ditch where so it would stay cool and wouldn't spoil. Then we'd go to town once a week and take our cream and sell that cream to the dairy. That's how we'd get groceries and our little gas money to take us to the next week.

Elaine: Was this the creamery in Vernal or Roosevelt?

Lyle: There was one in Vernal and Lapoint both. Eventually the one in Lapoint closed. Then, we had to go to Vernal. There was one in Lapoint for quite a few years.

Elaine: Do you know who owned it?

Vee: Was it Calders, because they did have one?

Lyle: It could have been the Calders. Lige Jackson had the one here in Vernal. That's Marv Jacksons dad.

Vee: There was a Days that had the creamery in Roosevelt.

Lyle: When we were living up there my folks weren't active in the church because we lived about fourteen miles from town, was part of the reason, and I guess the other reason, they was just too busy. But anyway usually on Sunday we would go to visit our grandparents. One Sunday we had been to our furthest grandparents, Nielson's, and visited with them. My sister Iris, she wanted to stay there and play with her cousins. My Uncle Harvey and Aunt Fontella lived right across the road directly west of my Taylor grandparents that lived right there in Lapoint. We stopped and I was standing in the back of the pickup looking over the hood because I always had me a flipper and a sling shot, a flipper in one hind pocket and a sling shot in the other one. I had some nice rocks and there was targets all the way along the road, tin cans and things that we could shoot at so I'd usually sit in the back of the pickup and shoot targets all the way coming and going. I got to be a pretty good shot. But this day that we were up visiting with my grandparents, Neilson's, then we came back and stopped to pick up Iris. We pulled off kind of in the bar pit right at my Grandpa Taylors house and honked for Iris. She ran out to the pickup and we told her to hurry because we had to get home and milk the cows before dark. She forgot about her purse that she had left straight across the road at my Uncle Harvey and Aunt Fontella's so she darted right in front of the pickup to run over to there and as she went around there why George Bigelow was coming up the road in his old Model A or T. He ran the store there in Lapoint. He couldn't see her because she was in front of the truck and he was going around us. Right as he got even with our vehicle why she was right there in front of him and he couldn't stop and hit her. She kind of rolled into the bar pit and her leg was a compound fracture. The bone was sticking out. My Aunt Faun ran over to her house and got a clean bed sheet and made kind of a wrap and wrapped it up and stopped the bleeding. We took her to Vernal to the doctor. They didn't have penicillin and sulfa and medicine that we got later on. She got gangrene. The doctors then had a little kind of a clinic that was right above where the Wells Fargo Bank is now, kind of those office spaces there. She was there for a few days and I remember going to see her and watching her. She wasn't conscience but she was breathing real deep. The doctor wanted to cut her leg off and see if he could save her life but she had told my parents that she didn't want her leg cut off. The doctor said, "Well, I need to cut into that where it's all swollen up and see if I can help it any." And he asked mom if she wanted to leave the room and she said, "No, I'll hold

her hand.” She stood there while the doctor cut her leg open and it was all full of blood poisoning and gang-green. I think she died about the next day.

Elaine: How old was she?

Vee: She had just past her eighth birthday.

Lyle: She had been baptized.

Vee: She died the 26th of August in 1939. She was born the 7th of June 1931. She was my age, four days difference.

Elaine: When you lived clear up in Deep Creek, did you have any neighbors up there?

Lyle: There wasn’t any neighbors within sight. Quince and Cloy Johnson’s family were our neighbors on the south and on the north it was Clyde and Cora Hacking, Arden and Tommy’s parents. Then there was the Burgess’, they kind of lived to the east of us and west of us was Jake Sweatman. He had a herd of goats that he made his living by milking those goats and raising them for meat. Each day he would corral them at night, and milk them morning and night. Then, they’d let them go out and he would follow them with his horse and let them graze all over the country side in the daytime. And then they’d bring them back at night. He had a boy, Gale, who was about my age. His dad built him a little cart with a little double tongue in it and double trees and stuff and then he took a couple of those big weather goats and trained them to drive like a team. He would come around all the neighbors with his little wagon and his goats were pulling it and take us for rides. We really enjoyed that.

Because we were so far away from the town and the church my mother taught Primary and Sunday School in the home. All the neighbor kids would come. These Sweatman kids were Southern Baptist but there mother came one time and saw that mom was teaching them out of the Bible and things were good, so they let their kids come every week when we’d have Church in our home.

Elaine: What kind of home did you live in? Was it a log home?

Lyle: When we first moved up there it was just a two room log with a clay roof. When the snow would melt in the spring and when ever it would rain hard why there were certain places that would leak. We pretty well knew where those were so we would have to run and if it was cloudy, why we’d set pans on the bed and the table and different places where it would leak so it wouldn’t get wet when we was gone. Those Sweatmans that had the goats, they lived in a dugout that was just a hole dug in the bank. They had two or three rooms back in there. That’s where

they lived until they was able to get far enough ahead to build them a house. I've had dinner in there and had goat meat and goat milk and goat cheese.

Part of the time they had a school bus up there and the roads weren't paved. In the spring of the year the roads would get real soft and the bus would sink and get high centered in some places. We would get out and we'd have to walk home and then the next morning we'd come on horses. They could usually get the school bus out when the ground had froze. He would take us back to school. When the roads were really bad why they'd park the bus about half way to Lapoint and we'd have to ride our horses. Sometimes we'd ride double and tie them up at a neighbors and feed them. The horses were always anxious to go for home because some times it would be after dark when we'd get home. We'd have horse races and rodeos coming and going.

Sometimes when we were on the bus and we'd get stuck or deep snow, a lot of time in the winter the snow would get deep, and on the hills kids would have to get out and push. If we was going towards school why the kids would hang back and slide there feet. If we was going towards home, why then they'd really push. A lot of those hills had packed snow; the bus driver would let us bring our sleighs and we would stack them on the back seat of the bus and then when we'd get to a good hill, why he'd let us ride down those hills on our sleighs. A lot of times we'd wreck and get our ears bloodied and our mouth bloodied. He'd catch up with us, why we'd load our sleighs all back in the bus and do it again the next day or coming back.

Elaine: Tell me about the grade school in Lapoint that you went to.

Vee: They had eight grades there. There was two grades to each class. Maybe the first grade only had one teacher but then after you got in the second and third why there'd be two grades together. Like the second grade was set on this side of the room and third grade over here. The teacher would give the second graders an assignment in reading or spelling or arithmetic or whatever and they'd work on that and then she would move over and teach the third grade for a while. She would kind of move back and forth. They didn't have no teacher aides or much help them days.

Elaine: Were there very many students in each class?

Lyle: Oh, there'd be probably fifteen to twenty kids in each grade or more. I got to where I was kind of bored with the class I was in and so I would hurry and do that (his lessons) and listen to what the teacher was teaching the next grade above me. I'd learn to do there work so when I got in about the sixth or seventh grade, why Mr. Harvey Hullinger was our principal, and he called me in and kind of give me some tests and things and he said, "You're doing the other grades work anyway and so we're going to give you a double promotion." So he let me skip one grade because I was already doing all the work. I was pretty excited about being able to get through school in a hurry. After I got in high school and got in athletics and that why, playing basketball and football and wrestling and stuff why then I was wishing I had another year to go.

Elaine: Do you remember some of the teachers there at the Lapoint School?

Lyle: Yeah, I think our first grade teacher was Mrs. Nootaboom. Quite a few of the teachers came from Salt Lake or other areas out here. My grandma Taylor had kind of a boarding house where she had boarded them and they would have room and board and pay her so much. It wasn't very far to school. They could walk from there over to the school and teach. Several of those ladies that was our teachers married local guys. Rex Taylor married one of the teachers. A couple of Stoker boys married a couple of the school teachers that we had. Mrs. Thelma Lee, she married a farmer there, Ray Lee

Harvey Hullinger was the principal and one of his boys, Roland Hullinger was also a teacher, and taught us band. I played the saxophone. Mr. Roy Morral from up at Tridell was our principal for a little while. The kids were probably sixteen or seventeen years old before they could get out of grade school because some of them wouldn't get promotion and some of them was kind of husky and they would give the teachers troubles and that. I remember when we came in the school we had one of those gates where it went around and around and it was petitioned off. You had to get in one of those and push your way around. A new family moved in our ward and they were a little bit hard on the teachers. These Golden kids, they brought some barb wire and they wired those gates closed. The kids had to crawl over the barbed wire fence and some of them tore their clothes. I think it was Mr. Hullinger or Mr. Morral, he rang the bell to come into school and he stood out there on the steps of the school. He had a paddle and he had a three foot yard stick. They used them occasionally. I guess now they'd probably get in trouble for abusing. Them days if you got a lickin' from Mr. Morral or Mr. Hullinger, when you got home you got another one. These Golden kids that wired up the gate, when we got over there he wouldn't let us go in the building. He said, "I want to know who wired that gate up." He had that yard stick in his hand and everybody knew. We stood there probably for thirty minutes and he said, "Well, we're not going to have school until I find out who wired that gate closed." One of those Golden kids said, "I done it, so what!" The principal started towards him and he took off running. The principal just run right along beside of him and whacking him right on the butt every jump. Finally he stopped and "Ohhh, I'll take my medicine." But the rest of us native kids knew enough not to try to run away from the principal. That was the last time he ever tried it too. But, they had good discipline then. If they needed to use a yard stick or paddle on somebody why, they just tell them to bend over and grab your ankles. You knew you was going to get a good paddling.

Vee: It seems to me like those paddles were like a big spoon. They had a handle with a big like a big spoon only it was big, it was a paddle. It would whack you on the seat. I can remember seeing kids having that used on them. I don't ever remember any of the girls, but I remember the boys.

Lyle: Jess Hullinger, he was a brother to Harvey. Then there was Harold Hullinger that taught over here in Vernal and then there was Hollis in Roosevelt. It was a big family. I think there dad was a doctor. Oh, Jess was an Ag teacher and coached some and was the principal when ever they needed him. He had one of those paddles and he made a believer out of the kids down there. They raised their hands if they had anything to say and they had real good discipline.

Elaine: I remember you telling me about going to the Ruple Ranch when you were younger. How old were you and tell me about working on there ranch

Lyle: My Grandpa Charlie, his parents were Teacum who was polygamist and had twenty eight or nine kids. Teacum's youngest daughter, Lily, married Hod Ruppel that had the Ruppel Ranch over there. One time when we were in Vernal, why we run on to Uncle Hod and he kind of made a fuss over me and asked me if I could ride a horse you know and everything. I told him I could and he said, "Well, if you'll come over to Island Park I'll give you a horse to ride." My dad and my three uncles that were Taylors had went over there when they were little. They had good gentle horses that they could ride clear from Lapoint to Island Park which was probably fifty miles and get over there in time to eat dinner. Uncle Hod would always size up their horses and say well I got to have that one for Billie and this one over here for little Wanda. That was Wanda Staley and Billie Untermann. So he would trade them two that wasn't broke good for one good broke horse. Later on why he got to trade them moonshine for a good gentle horses they were riding.

Anyway, I kept after my dad after Uncle Hod promised me a horse if I came over there. Before I got big enough or got a chance to go over there why Uncle Hod got appendicitis over there at Island Park and before they could get him to a doctor why his appendix broke and he had a lot of poison in his system and they tried to operate on him but he passed away. He didn't survive that appendix attack. So, I was real sad that he passed away before I got a chance to get my horse. We was talking with Aunt Lilly after the funeral and dad told her that I was feeling pretty bad because Uncle Hod had promised me a horse and she says, "Well if he told him he could have a horse the offers still there." So when I got a little older why then I went over there to get my horse and took my saddle. By that time Aunt Lilly had remarried to Joel Evans. He was one of the old time cowboys around here. So they run some horses in the corral and told me I could pick out of them that wasn't broke. He said, "There's some better ones in here but if I was you I'd take that bay mare there cuz she's going to have a colt of old KO. And that was his top saddle horse he used to come here to the rodeos, Joel Evans did and ride that horse to pick up the riders after they'd made there rides. So that's the one I took.

I stayed there for a couple of weeks and helped them and had a lot of fun. One of the things, they had a set line for fish down at the river. It was a kind of a small rope that was about from here out to the road that had a rock on the end of it and then about every five feet there would be a bate hook and they'd put a chunk of venison on those bait hooks. Then, you'd kind of swing that around your head and throw it. It would go about half way out in the river and then

you'd let it set there and the next morning or when you got a chance why you could go down there and pull that line in and you'd have a mess of fish. They'd have fish about once a day or whenever they wanted it. Some of them were big long white fish but most of them were catfish. When I was over there why I'd ask Aunt Lilly if I could be responsible for the fish line. She said, "Oh, yeah you could do that." So I'd boy I'd get up early and run down there and pull that fish line in and get the fish off from it and rebate it and throw it back out. I would go check it about twice a day. Soon they got more fish than they needed.

There was a trail that they rode over to Jones Hole from the ranch. There was places that was real steep up and down some of those gulches. We rode over there to Jones Hole and fished a couple of times. That was before they had a hatchery there but it was real good fishin' and it was easy to catch them. Those were trout there and you'd really catch a nice mess of fish in a hurry.

One other thing that I done, I don't know if it was that trip or another trip that Joel and I pushed a bunch of cows across the river over by a big rock on the east side of the river they call 'Haystack Rock'. It's shaped just like the great big loose haystacks they used to make out of the hay.

Elaine: Was it right there at Island Park?

Lyle: Yeah, and we push those cows across there and it was in the summer time and we didn't think much about it but anyway when we went across why you could just hold your feet up a little bit and your shoes wouldn't even get wet. Those cows when they went across there they stirred up that sand and it washed that sand out and when we came back why it was probably as deep as this room or so. When we rode off into it the first thing you know our horses sunk and dropped clear off in and all that was sticking out was there ears. I just about squeezed that saddle horn off. I can remember that Joel got his horse positioned on the down side of me in case I fell off or something and he'd try to grab me. When we got to the other side why I was sure glad to see dry ground and I never did have any desire to get in the Green River after that.

One of the things: there ditch came out of the Green River up to the head of their field and late in the summer the flow in the river would drop and they wouldn't have very much irrigating water and they'd take one single horse and put a harness on him and cut a cottonwood tree and then with their work horse drag it right out into the river. There were some rocks there that they could kind of position it on and then that would divert more water in there ditch and then they could irrigate their crops. That was kind of exciting to me to watch. I didn't ride the horse out in there but I watched them do it several times.

After I stayed there that couple of weeks why then I rode that horse they gave me, I had it going pretty good then, and rode her to Vernal one day. I stayed there over night with Thede McCarrel. The next morning I took off and headed from here to ride home to Deep Creek. I had me a little lunch and some water and stuff. But, that horse didn't want to go that way all alone, when I had rode to Vernal I had rode with some other people, but she didn't want to go. It took

me all day to get from here (Vernal) over to Deep Creek. She wasn't broke too good then anyway.

Elaine: Did you go through Dry Fork?

Lyle: Yeah, I went up through Dry Fork and over Pine Ridge and down in. The next spring she had a sorrel filly colt out of this old Kao stud. That was about the time 'My Friend Flick' movie was on. We named her Old Flicka. She got to be my favorite horse when she got old enough. By that time I was old enough to do a little rodeoing and did quite a bit of roping on her. I'd ride her over to the rodeos over in Neola and Buckaroo Park and clear over here to Vernal.

Then I went back to Island Park several times after I got a little older. But I really liked it over there. Some of my cousins went over there too.

Elaine: Where was that Buckaroo Park located at?

Lyle: You go straight west from Lapoint and it hits the Whiterocks road. Before you get to the Whiterocks road after you passed the Uinta River. It was about a half mile north of that road. They had big fields and pastures there.

Elaine: There is just a bunch of sage brush out there now?

Lyle: Yeah. There arena was prêt near forty acres or twenty acres big. I remember one time when I was just a teenager why I was signed up to ride bulls. They didn't have these real mean Brahmas like they have now but they had these old Herford and Derham and Holstein bulls that would buck pretty hard when you'd put a cinch on them and a strap cinch in their flanks. I think they'd give you a dollar a piece, it wasn't very much, maybe it was five dollars, if you'd stick on for eight seconds. I signed up and I rode this bull and the arena was quite big and they give you fifty cents or a dollar extra if you'd bring back your cinch and the flank strap on them so they could get the next bulls ready for the next contestants. So after I got him rode why he was just kind of trotting along and I was getting those straps all undone so I could bring those back and earn that extra dollar and the pickup man he come loping down through there. I remember it was ole Deloss Searle. He said, "You made your ride! You made your ride! Get off!" I was trying to get those things undone. Anyway when he loped up there he scared that bull and by then I just had everything all undone. He scared him and started to bucking again and so then I just went head first right off on my hands and knees. I could tell when I got up I had hurt my arm pretty bad in fact it was just drooped down.

We went over there and had a midwife that lived in Lapoint, Mrs. Lambert. Her husband had a homestead on Diamond Mountain and every year they would go up there and take their goats and horses and cows and stay all summer and then come back to Lapoint in the fall. She was a midwife, she helped bring into the world a lot of the kids over there around Lapoint at that

time. She told me my arm was broke. So we went over there and this Harvey Hullinger, at that time he was our bishop, he just put his foot right here in my [armpit] and got a hold of my arm and he weighed about 240 pounds and just stretched that arm out and then she set the bone and wrapped it just a little bit and told me I needed to go to the doctor and get a cast on it. So, my Uncle Lloyd hauled me over here to Vernal and found Dr. Eskelson.

They didn't have very good equipment then but anyway he took an xray of it and he said, "Well it's not broke." He just put a little more wrap on it and let me go back. When I got back over there why I told Mrs. Lambert, I said, "Well it wasn't broke after all." She said, "Well, it was broke." She said, "It was hanging clear down." She had set it good enough that he couldn't tell from his xray machine. She said, "You go back and you tell him that I said that it is broke." We had an old crank phone there in Lapoint. She said, "I'll go call him up and tell him." So anyway we went back the next day and he looked at his xray then and it had dried a little more and then he could see the break so he put a cast on it. I think I got five dollars for riding that bull and before I got my arm all fixed, why it cost me forty five dollars. I decided riding wasn't my deal so I started team roping and calf roping after that.

Vee: Bennett also was in with Lapoint with the Buckaroo Rodeo.

Lyle: Three of the wards would go together to sponsor those rodeos on the 24th of July.

Elaine: I know that Neola has had one on the Fourth of July for a lot of years.

Lyle: I used to go over there and rope there too. The last time I was to that Buckaroo Park, each ward would have a queen and Vee was the queen from Bennett Ward. I thought if she could ride like that she would make a good girl friend. After the rodeo they had a big picnic and a dance at night and everybody would go to the dance so I ask Vee if she would go to the dance with me. She said, yeah she would. That's when we started dating, was after that rodeo at Buckaroo Park.

Vee: I was probably just a sophomore. The first time I knew him was when I was a freshman in high school and he was a senior. I remember he asked me to dance and I thought that was pretty cool to get to dance with a senior. It was exciting you know. But then it was just one of those high school things. The year before I was the queen, we was to the dance at Lapoint and my mother always said, "If the guys can't come and take you, they're not going to bring you home." But I didn't always follow that rule. None of the girls did. We'd always go to the dances and then the guys would like to take us home afterwards. Lyle took me home this one night and it was between my sophomore and junior year in high school. I think we dated a little bit then in the fall and then we quit and then this was between my junior and senior year when I was the rodeo queen from Bennett. He started dating me. I thought that was really good. Here I am dating this college kid.

We came over to Vernal to the big Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo or what ever it was called then and he went off to school we just kept on dating.

Elaine: Let's talk about your school years at Alterra since you both went to school there. Lyle did you still live in Deep Creek at that time?

Lyle: Yeah, I think about this time.

Vee: In 1944.

Elaine: You moved from Deep Creek to Lapoint in 1944?

Lyle: We kept our ranch up there but so we could get to school better why my folks bought this place just south of town from Pearl Labrum. I think there's about three acres there. Then dad bought fifty acres from my grandpa's old original homestead so we moved down there in the winter time then we'd move back to Deep Creek soon as school was out.

Vee: You sold your sheep to help your mother buy that ground.

Lyle: To buy that house in Lapoint. All the sheep we raised from the bum lambs.

Vee: He and his mother had the sheep herd. His dad hated them.

Lyle: We sold those sheep to Lowell Brady from Rangely, Colorado.

Elaine: And that's how you raised the money to buy the house in Lapoint?

Lyle: Yes, then after we got married dad turned the ranch over to us and we finished paying for it and we bought some more ground joining it and some forest grazing permits.

Vee: We bought, how many acres did we buy right there joining your dad's in Lapoint because we thought we may end up building a home there to get our kids out to school. How many acres did we buy?

Lyle: Three or four, maybe five acres. We bought it from Darrell Swain. He's the grandpa to those Swains that have the Stockman's here and over in Ft. Duchesne.

One thing I really enjoyed in high school was, I was interested in farming and ag so I was active in the FFA and got to be the FFA secretary and then I got to be the president of the FFA Club when I was a senior. I think it was when we was a junior we use to have what they called smokers. We would have boxing matches. We'd have one with the Roosevelt FFA and then we

would have one with Uintah. We would match up the kids that was the same weight and according to experience and have probably ten or fifteen, three round, boxing matches. A lot of people would come to those.

Elaine: Was that part of FFA?

Lyle: Yeah, that's how we raised funds. Then we'd go on trips. I remember we bought a real nice Thorough Bred Filly from a Gardiner up in Neola and we sold tickets to that at the stock show and all over the country. I think he gave it to us when he found out what we was doing, but we raised about three thousand dollars selling tickets on that horse. Then we rented a couple of school busses and the next summer we took a trip to Yellow Stone Park. We all had sleeping bags. We slept underneath the bus. We never did go to any motels or anything. We would go to a park some place where there was restrooms or outhouses and stay there. Then we'd stopped in Jackson Hole and went on up to Carlston where the Temple is there in Canada and then came back.

We would have these projects and raise funds with our boxing matches and raffles and stuff and then we'd have these trips to kind of build up interest of all these kids coming into school and would join the FFA Club because they knew they was going to go on a trip somewhere.

Elaine: Was it kind of like it is now?

Lyle: Every kid would have a project you know. It all depend, it might be dairy if his folks was in the dairy. They used to have a lot bigger Junior Live Stock show here in Vernal. Now it's mostly Fat Animals. Back in them days, why they had a lot of breeding classes. They had a breeding division for dairy and hogs and beef cattle and sheep. Kids could come and exhibit their heifers as well as their fat steers. Then we would go take some of the best ones clear out to North Ogden to the Live Stock Show there and show them and sale them out there. Some of us had those stock steers and get not as much as they get out of them now but we'd get more than market price. Some of us had enough saved up that we could go to college or get started in farming or something like that by the time we got through high school.

Vee: Tell her what the name of your one heifer registered cow was.

Lyle: I had enough of these bum lambs that I sold that I went over to Roosevelt. There was an old guy that raised Herefords. His name was Wilford McConkie. I went and picked out a nice registered Hereford Heifer to start me a herd with and bought it from him. From that one animal we built up a herd. We got up as high as 200 head of cows that we built up out of that one animal.

Vee: That was from before we were married until today, we just kept it going.

Lyle: Her name was Domino Pearl.

Vee: They all have names and pedigrees and registration numbers and what their sire's name is and the females and everything.

Lyle: As our kids got big enough they got real active in the 4-H and FFA and exhibited to all the stock shows around the country.

Elaine: Were you in the 4-H club when you were still in high school?

Lyle: Mine was mostly FFA. I think you was in 4-H wasn't you?

Vee: I sewed. We did sewing projects and cooking.

Elaine: Was you in high school then?

Vee: We started down in grade school. I think it's because my oldest sister was the 4-H leader and she was still at home. She would have been seventeen or eighteen years old. We learned how to judge string beans in a bottle, and fruit. We had a camp up Uinta Canyon one summer. All the 4-H kids from different areas came there. We were there for about three days and that was a lot of fun.

What else did you do in school? [Lyle] What about when you won that one speech contest?

Lyle: Oh they'd have a state convention every year and we'd go into Salt Lake for the FFA Convention. Every chapter, you know there be one from Logan and St. George and Cedar City. They'd all congregate there and have a big convention. They'd have national people come there and talk and booths and all kinds of competition things. They'd have a contest for extemporaneous speeches and parliament procedure contests, how to conduct a meeting and all that kind of stuff. One year I got second in the FFA speaking contest for all of Utah. We had a Mrs. Myrtle Lambert that helped me with it. She was a teacher in high school. She helped me.

Elaine: Who was the FFA teacher?

Lyle: It was Jess Hullinger. He's the one that had good discipline.

Elaine: That FFA program is a really good program for kids. It really helps their character.

Vee: It's totally different now than it used to be.

Elaine: It's a good program along with 4-H and the Livestock Show. Was the Livestock Show part of the FFA program? Were they kind of hand in hand?

Lyle: Yeah, it was sponsored by the County and the community and they had the 4-H and FFA leader. If you were in 4-H or FFA then you could enter your animals in it.

Elaine: But you had to be in one of those clubs?

Lyle: Yeah.

Vee: Seems like you came home from the Altamont one with a big purple ribbon.

Elaine: Vee what do you remember about Alterra and about high school?

Vee: I just wanted to have fun. When I started as a freshman in high school in the ninth grade we lived we moved back from Roosevelt to the house on the hill. We used to identify it above Victory Park, the big dance hall, which was at the bottom of the hill. Right now you would identify that home as being there by hilltop on top of the ward cut.

Elaine: Is the Victory Park building that large creamish yellow house down in the bottom?

Vee: Yeah and there are other homes and things down in there. Victory Park was a huge dance place, lots of fun. I know we were young, it was during the war. It was when the oil boom kind of started and the Oakies came. They called them Oakies. Mother and dad would let me go and I know I was too young, if they went with. That's where the kids came from Roosevelt, Alterra, all the wards around, and we would go there to the dances and just really had a lot of fun.

I can remember as a freshman they used to, they call it hazing now, initiation type thing, and us kids had to wear underwear backwards to school. That was quite a deal to find some underwear of my dads that I could wear because we didn't have underwear in those days. That was kind of embarrassing but I think we did get to change back into regular clothes that afternoon. But that's one thing I really remember when we lived at that house.

I was fourteen and they let us date. My mother let us date. We was usually with three or four other kids in a vehicle. Sometimes there would be about eight of you in a vehicle like sardines. You didn't always have a heater so you had a blanket to put over you to keep warm going from home to the school to our dances. That was the big highlight of my high school years was the school dances and the fun things that we did. I got to be on the girl's softball team year. I was a good athlete because I could win some of the runs. Janet Gistrap was a real runner. She could out run me most of the time. That was really fun to jump the hurdles and do the mile and

the quarter mile and the relay races. These were all fun, fun activities that we could participate in. We could come to Vernal in the spring. We'd go to Roosevelt sometimes in the spring too to participate. I participated in those things all through high school. We used to go to the ball games too. The basketball games inside was a hoot. We had a balcony in that old Alterra High School. It was up over the gym. We used to pound on that thing. We would play Uintah High School because that was a big rivalry and also Roosevelt, but Vernal was the worst. You would think that balcony was going to just cave in.

Elaine: You'd stomp your feet?

Vee: Oh yes, stomp your feet and yell. There must have been a hundred kids up in that balcony, just one long stretch along that cultural hall. It's a wonder we didn't get killed. But the ball games were a lot of fun. They had what they called the pep club back then. They would do an intermission performance.

Elaine: Kind of like the drill team is now?

Vee: Like the drill team, uh huh, and the cheerleaders. When I was a sophomore they decided they needed to have some more in the pep club so they were going to choose five girls from the sophomore class to be in the pep club. I think they voted them in and I got to be one that they voted in to the pep club. My mother wasn't very happy because it cost to make a uniform. I remember they chose our colors. They changed it and it was green and white. I know the skirt was green that year and they made a white battle jacket like the army people wore. That was fun. Also, I can't remember what the uniforms were back when I was a junior but when I was a senior I had the choice of still being in the pep club, that's when they chose to do school sweaters, white, or I could have a new dress for Christmas. This was a big dilemma for me because I'd been dating Lyle and I knew that I would accept a ring at Christmas time. This was in the early fall of my senior year when I was still seventeen. My mother says, "I really mean it this time. You could do one or the other. You can't do both. We don't have the money." So I chose the new dress because I wanted to look nice to get engaged in.

Lyle: We'll have to show you some of the pictures she got when she was in high school. She was a looker.

Vee: Anyway, we did get engaged at Christmas time. It was to our Senior Hop. I remember we came in a little bit later than most of the rest of them and his buddies all came running over there to the door. "Let's see it. Let's see your ring." They just knew he had a ring for me.

I can remember when I was a sophomore I was one of the attendants at the Harvest Ball in the fall. I was popular girl one year. I was year book queen one year. I was the high school secretary when I was a senior. I was president over the Future Homemakers of America one year.

Between my junior and senior year I was vice president in the State of Utah. They were taking us on a trip back to Kansas City, Missouri, for Future Homemakers convention. I and they chose one other girl to go and that was Joyce, also known as Joyce Bingham. We went back to Kansas City, Missouri, and oh that was such a long bus ride. Mrs. Myrtle Lambert was our leader and our chaperone and she said we all had to wear a hat. I remember for our group pictures I believe I'm the only one that had a hat on. I felt so silly but she was very proper when she would go with us into the Salt Lake Conventions and we would get to stay in a hotel. Oh, that was just something you couldn't believe you could do, a girl in high school. She would take us to Coon Chicken Inn, something like that. She taught us how to use our forks properly and she was really a good home economics leader. That was a very enjoyable trip. My experiences in high school with those activities really helped to build my character and my desires to be a good person. Also when I was a junior I remember a Mrs. Andreason was our PE teacher. She wrote a little note in our yearbook like we used to always write in yearbooks. She did tell me I had great potential. I had to look that up in the dictionary to see what it meant. That helped me to make good decisions. When I was a junior I didn't lack for dates. You even get so you go steady. Then pretty soon you dump that one for another one. But, we had a lot of fun.

Lyle: I was pretty worried when she was a senior we were engaged and I was up to Logan trying to work my way through college. I didn't get home to see her very often. When the fellow students voted her most popular girl I was kind of worried.

Vee: They did that by popularity back in our day. High school was a real education as far as I was concerned because I got married right after that. We had a lot of experiences and I can't remember the name of the class, the one class that we were required to take was to teach us how to take care of sick people. We were taught how to properly make a bed, the nursing end of it. We were taught cooking. We were taught everything you would need to do when you had a home of your own.

Not very many kids went to college back in those days. We thought the thing to do was you know to get married and have a family. That's what our parents did. A few of them went on to college but not a lot of them.

Another thing, I think there was three of us that was recommended by the PE teacher that was outstanding athletic girls. I was one of them. A Jorgensen was one and Janet Gilstrap was the other one or it was Violet Wilkerson.

Lyle: Janet Gilstrap, we keep in touch with her because her son lives up here, the Matson.

Vee: I got to see her a couple of summers ago when she was up here for the granddaughters wedding. She was a real good athlete. She might have moved that last year because they worked out of Fort Duchesne. Fort Duchesne had big beautiful homes down there. That was when they had the war, the first World War. They had big homes down in there.

They did have a church basketball team. We got to go to play seminary basketball like in Altamont and Roosevelt. I don't ever remember coming to Vernal. We just played half court. We had so many on this end, so many on that end, you just did half court.

During high school you always had someone you would swoon over. Cloyd Kump, he could sing, and all the girls just swooned over him. They really like Cloyd. He could play that guitar and sing. Ad Kump was a half brother, Isla Angus and Lynn Angus, he was related to them. But, he was really good. Then he got where he played these steel guitars, electric. Yeah, he was a very, very good singer. The last time we heard him sing, I thought, he hasn't lost one bit of that. Very talented. I think he lives in St. George now.

Then another one I didn't know could sing, was Lynn Haslem. He lives up in Altamont now. He was a real educator. We used to try out for these different parts in the school play. All of sudden he played out for one of these vocal numbers. And then the girls all started swooning over him too.

Elaine: They like the boys that could sing.

Lyle: Yes they did, they like the guys that could sing.

Elaine: Lyle, you said you played a lot of sports in high school.

Vee: Tell her what kind of an instrument you played in high school.

Lyle: I played the saxophone.

Vee: I was thinking you switched in high school.

I did twirl too in high school. I was in the marching band. So I still got to twirl. Twila Bigelow was our drum majorette.

Lyle: I'll tell you one other thing that happened before we got married. I think when I graduated in high school I got an ----- through my FFA and I then I got a scholarship from Sears and Roebuck to go to Utah State University and that kind of helped me. I went up there when I was only seventeen years old, all alone and batching. Well, there was another kid from Lapoint went up but we got a room in what they called it the Cracker Box. We batched there you know and went to college and everything. I had a job working in kind of like a Burger King, or something like that to make a little extra money to pay my tuition and a little better clothes and things. They had the ROTC program for reserve officer training for the army and the airforce and that up there at Utah State. I think the first year you had to go free but after that they'd pay you about a hundred dollars a month to go. It was part of our military. So I signed up for that to help me work my way through college. Eventually I got an officers commission, part of that you had to go to a summer camp once. I was in the artillery and so we had to go to an artillery school at Fort

Bliss, Texas, in between our junior and senior years. Some of my buddies up there at Logan were also in the ROTC and they had to go down there. We got together four or five of us. One guy had a car to go down there.

Vee: It was a brand new Pontiac, a black one.

Lyle: He lived in Heber. He was an uncle to Beth Murphy that's our Stake Relief Society President. Anyway, they came by to pick me up on our way to Fort Bliss. Some how or another I think they stopped in Roosevelt and inquired about Vee, if anybody knew her and where she lived and everything. Unbeknownst to me they stopped by and... Tell her about your visit.

Vee: Here was this brand new Pontiac. This was back in 1949 and here was these four guys. One of them got out and came to door and wanted to know if that was where Vee Rasmussen lived. I said, "Well, yes." I kind of thought who are they. He told me who he was and said they were on their way to pick up Lyle and they were getting ready to go to Fort Bliss. We chatted quite a bit. He asked me quite a few different questions. Can you imagine me thinking you know, here I am eighteen and these guys were here. What are they going to do while they're gone? What are they going to do down there in El Paso where they were stationed? I was afraid he would find him another girl friend or something. When they got to Lapoint, he didn't believe them that they had found my home, talked to me and then come on up to Lapoint, picked him up and then headed down to Texas.

Lyle: They started telling me all these things about her that I hadn't never told them before. I was sure curious to get to write her a letter and find out more about their visit. I don't think you had a phone did you?

Vee: Heavens no. The only phone there was at Joyce Haslem's place because her dad worked for the government. They had one of these Bell phones where you rang. She's Joyce Bolton now; she used to be Joyce Haslem. She's quite a historian.

Anyway, I wrote him back and told him, "Sure they had stopped there." I guess that was the guys that was to pick him up.

Lyle: One of the things in El Paso just across the Rio Grande River from Juarez, New Mexico, one of things that we done and then later after we were married why I got called into the service during the Korean War. But, one of the things we really enjoyed down there was going over and watching the bull fights. You've probably seen those Mexicans fight those bulls. They had that big old sword and the final thing why they stick that right down through the shoulders. Then he bleeds to death and if it's a good show he gets the ears and if it's extra good I think he gets the tongue. It's kind of gruesome but everybody goes and watches it while they're down there.

Vee: You watch them on Sunday afternoon. That's the only time they have them. Let's back up to high school. We had a one class room seminary building.

Elaine: Where was it located from the school?

Vee: West of the school. Then it burned down the year that I was a freshman, he was a senior. We had Frank Walker, he was the principal. Then he left during that time and they had a Mrs. Maddy Edwards was the principal then of the seminary after he left during that year. That was really sad when that seminary burned down. We had really no place to go. There was a little one room store but in the back was a home where people lived. They would let them hold seminary in that store part. During the noon hour kids would go in there to buy like ice cream cones and things. But, we had seminary in there for two or three years. The year I was a senior, or maybe the next year, they finally brought in a move-in across the road to the east for the seminary. Mrs. Edwards taught seminary for a year or two and then Wendal Johnson came in and taught us. I think he thought I was a hopeless case because I didn't like to study and it was hard for me to remember.

Elaine: Because you liked the activities.

Vee: Yes, I did like the activities. I couldn't see any need of reading all that history in the Bible about who begat who and all the genealogy. To me I couldn't even pronounce some of the names let alone try to learn some of those things in our seminary classes. But as I grew older it became more important. I graduated from seminary. Did you graduate Lyle?

Lyle: Yeah.

Vee: We had a three year seminary program. I was a junior when I graduated from seminary. They had what they called declamation talks. You had to write a declamation talk every year that you were in seminary and get up in front and give it.

When Lyle was a senior in 1945 Art Wiscomb was a finalist and Vera Hatch was a finalist. In 1946 there was an Almond Wilson that was a finalist and a Jolene Curtis that was a finalist. (Vee found this seminary book with this information on it) They had seminary officers just like you had student body officers, just like they do now. But, we graduated in Roosevelt.

Elaine: It was called the Roosevelt High School and not Union right? Where was it located?

Vee: It was Roosevelt High. It was kind of out on the way to Neola. But we held it at the chapel which is a Stake Center. In there chapel it was kind of slanted down in that building. It had a

balcony up there where you could see over into the cultural hall or else into the chapel part when they'd have an overflow. That was where we had our seminary graduation.

I can also remember church days when one of the Prophets was out there to speak and they set up chairs in the cultural hall and they had their stage where the pulpit was. I think it was Heber J. Grant. We got to shake hands with him. Just early teenage years but I thought, he's there, take advantage of that opportunity. We did get to do that.

Elaine: Lyle do you have anything to add about seminary or high school. I know you said you played sports in high school.

Lyle: I'm remembering things I wanted to mention. I always had a real love for horses. The earliest thing that I can remember back was when I just about probably only about three or four years old I had a rocking horse. I called him Old Scotty. I just rode him 'til I wore him clear out. I always had a great desire to have a horse of my own. My dad used to go out on the Hill Creek. My grandpa ran his sheep out there. They'd go out and bring the horses in for winter time. So he would ride clear out there on a horse clear out on the Book Cliffs and gather all their extra horses, their pack horses and the ones they herded sheep with and bring them back to Lapoint for the winter. One year they didn't bring them back and most of them winter killed out there in the deep snow. He told me this one time that he was going to bring me back an old wore out wildhorse that one of the ranchers had out there and give him. So, I was looking forward to that. We had one of these big high A hay derricks. It had a ladder up on it to go up and grease the pulleys. I knew what day dad would be coming back and I would go climb clear to the top of that derrick and watch and watch and I would finally see him coming why the old horses knew the way home. They'd be way out in lead on fast running trot. The young horses didn't know their way. Why they'd be behind them hitting him with his lariat and making him keep a goin'. Ever so often why he'd catch a fresh horse and change his saddle and keep a going. It would be just about dark when he'd get home. Those horses would all be strung out in a big line. It was one of the most beautiful sights I ever saw. But he brought me back this old wild horse. I know he was as ugly as mud. He had a big long hair on his belly. I thought he was the best thing that I'd ever had. We had a fenced yard and I'd ride him around and around and around the house until I'd go to sleep. My mom would come out to take me off. I'd kick and get him going again and ride there all day and all night if they'd let me. Anyway, I still had him when I went up Deep Creek and rode him to school.

Both Vee's dad and my dad were depending on their team and their horses for a living. Dad with his farming and Vee's dad, he worked in the timbers as well as farming and they had to have their horses shod good with real good shoes on so they didn't get lame you know. So, they could pull in the mud. Their shoes had kind of a little spike on them and quite often us kids had to go without shoes so the work horses could have good shoes on. Dad used to freight and haul corn clear out to the sheep men out at the Book Cliffs and Hill Creek. I remember him telling about one time that he'd do that in the winter time and you know when you go through Ouray a

lot of times it's 30 and 40 below zero. That's the coldest spot in the county because that's where those rivers come together. There was quite a few Indians and they had a store in Ouray then. He would camp there going and coming with his freight wagon. He said that he stopped there and he had made up some sandwiches and things to eat you know when he was on his trip. It would be so cold in the winter they would just be froze. You couldn't hardly even chew them without trying to warm them in some way. Dad said this old Indian came over there came over where dad was camped and trying to get a little fire going to thaw his bed out and warm him a little bit and get him a rock to put in his bed. The old Indian said, "Got good stew, come and have a bowl of hot stew." Dad thought, "That sound's pretty good. I guess I'll go have some." He said they fixed him a nice big bowl of this hot stew. He said that was sure delicious. He said he ate that down. That old buck Indian said, "Come over, have more, dig down deep, get dog meat." Dad said, "Boy, I believe I'm just about full." He always remembered that. They had some pretty bad camping conditions. They'd have to camp out and didn't have a kind of stove to heat your tents and things like they do now. They just had wood and some kind of coal to keep your fire warm you know at night in your camps. It was kind of a hard life. But that's how they made their living so the kids could have clothes and something to eat.

Vee: I was just thinking back of some of the friends that I made from around like Lapoint after we started in high school. My brother Gale was a really good dancer. We all liked to dance with him. Twilla Bigelow, she was married to a Simmons and he got killed in the mine just before her sophomore year. She was one of my friends. Jerry Rich was another friend, Valena Reynolds, now Merkley was another of my friends. Colleen Rasmussen, which is now Colleen Powell, was another one. Marylou Burgess Huber from Lapoint was another one of my really good friends during high school. I think those are probably the closest girl friends which I had. I did a few things with Janet Gilstrap also and her sister Wilma because they were into sports before they left. I had the opportunity of staying in their home. They always treated me very nice even though they were not members of the church. They'd always ask me to give the prayer for the blessing on the food because they knew we had the blessing on the food at our home. I remember that I had not told some of the girl friends that you were close to a lot of girls in school. I kind of liked the social part of it. It was easy for me to get acquainted.

I never was in school plays. Lyle was in a school play right?

Lyle: Uh huh.

Vee: We all had to take a chorus class. I never felt like I could sing, which I couldn't. The one music teacher, Mr. Johnson, he even tried to help me on an individual basis during noon hour. Also at the Alterra High School they had what they had a lunch room that was separate from the high school. It was a building outside. We'd go from the high school. You would see the kids making a mad dash from main entrance in the hall way and then out to the boys restrooms and

out to the girls restrooms to see who could be first in the lunch line. We did appreciate those school lunches.

I remember sometimes my mother would tell us older kids, “There isn’t money for lunch tickets this week.” We’d buy them by the week usually. She would say, “Eat a good breakfast and when you get home tonight I’ll have supper ready. I need the money for the little kids in grade school.” It was not always easy financially in our family because there was so many of us. I would have to make up an excuse sometimes. That’s what I had to do during the lunch hour and not go with my friends to eat. Sometimes that was hard to do, but that’s kind of how it was financially. You made your choices. You could either have this or have that. I think it’s helped me in my life to be grateful for all the things that we have now.

Lyle: I remember one time the places that they danced like the Victory Park, also had roller skating. They would roller skate you know for part of their activities.

Elaine: They skated at Victory Park?

Lyle: Yeah, and that Red Barn over there.

Vee: The Rod and Gun Club.

Lyle: There was that hall they had here.

Elaine: The Imperial Hall.

Lyle: Yeah, I used to roller skate there. I asked Vee for a date and they weren’t the kind that you could rent the skates. They were clamp on, they weren’t shoes like now you rent skates why they’re shoes and you put them on and lace them up, but those they were just a clamp. They just clamped on your shoes and you had to have a little wrench to tighten them on so they wouldn’t come off. Sometimes they would come off. But, I wanted Vee to go skating with me and she didn’t have any shoes that the skates would fit on. I can’t remember what we done.

Vee: We went skating. I’d fall down. But he could skate because he was a really good ice skater. He could skate frontwards, backwards. He would do the same thing with the roller skates. He would hold me up while danced and had a lot of fun. But we did skate up at the Rod and Gun Club too didn’t we?

Lyle: It seemed like it.

Vee: As well as Victory Park. When they turned [to skating] was when dances kind of quit when the Big Barn came in to be when the Ross’ Rhythm Wranglers played. That was kind of really a

wild place. We only went once or twice there. The last time was the summer we got married we went to a dance and we just went in and walked back out because too many drunk people it was just not a good environment.

Elaine: Was the Victory Park more family oriented?

Vee: Not really. No, but you went there chaperoned. I can remember one night they had, it would be Joyce Hayes Bingham Murray, her step dad, Ursel Bingham, was the bouncer down there. Mary Larsen was the ticket taker; that would be Larry Larsen's mother. I thought she was the most beautiful lady. She was little and pretty, in my eyes then she was a beautiful lady and she was ticket taker. Anyway this Ursel was there bouncer because he was a big husky guy and Wilma Bingham would usually be down there too. Those Oakeys got to fighting that one night and actually bit his cheek and almost bit his ear clear off. He had a big scar on that cheek and he was a long time healing up. They were drunk and he was taking them outside. They wanted a place to dance. They had the Reynolds Orchestra which was a thirteen piece orchestra most of the time that played in there. It was a beautiful band from Roosevelt, the Reynolds family, and they could sing. I think they were the main ones that played down there.

We had a junior prom down there when I was junior and it was called, Apple Blossom Time. We decorated that big hall. I thought it was huge then. Joyce was the chairman over that, that year. We spent days making apple blossoms out of crepe paper. Of course we usually had a supervisor, one of the school teachers was our supervisor. We spent a whole week just decorating that big room down there for the junior prom. Before, we'd always had it in our big gymnasium. Well Alterra wasn't very big. That was just a real special junior prom that year because we had it down there. They also had at Victor Park, the open air in the summer time. It was cement and it had railings around it. You could go out there and dance.

Marion Buzz Larsen, they had a home there where they lived during this time.

Elaine: Were they the ones that ran it?

Vee: They ran the Victory Park. I always remember they were such neat, neat, people. Even after they retired and came over here.

We liked the western that the Ross brothers did, us kids, because we used to do a dance, what we called the Ballard Stomp. These kids from Myton, they kind of started it. Then it got real popular at our high school and down at Victory Park. They would form big circles and kind of hold hands and we'd just stand there and stomp as we went around with the different two steps and things. That was lots of fun. We used to do the Bunny Hop; that was lots of fun. Churches mostly had like Virginia Reels that we would do. Back in Ballard, they would push the benches back and we used that for a cultural hall. We had dances during the War years and all through growing up years. The chapel was part of the cultural hall and that's where we danced. Bennett was the same way. You moved the benches back and danced. When we were in Bennett Thursa

Sprouse could play the piano by ear, and oh, we'd talk her into staying after mutual and playing for us to dance. She could thump that piano. Oh, we had a lot of fun.